

## Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting April 26, 2000

### Consent Agenda

- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
- Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

### Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution of Support for Read Aloud Virginia (RAV), presented to Gary Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Directors

### Discussion and Action Items

<i><b>ITEM</b></i>	<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>COMMENTS</b></i>
Second Review of Proposed Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)	Amendments were made to the draft of the proposed revisions, and the document was adopted for distribution for public comment.	<p>The full text of the proposed revisions to the SOA may be accessed at the DOE home Web site <a href="http://www.pen.k12.va.us">www.pen.k12.va.us</a>. The Board anticipates adopting the Standards at its July meeting. Key proposed amendments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Removal of the Standards of Learning (SOL) passing rates for school accreditation purposes in third grade for science and history/social science. Passing rates had been 50 percent in both core areas for full accreditation.</li><li>▪ Increasing the pass rate to 75 percent in third and fifth grade English for a school to be fully accredited (effective in the 2003-04 school year). Before the 2003-04 school year, schools must achieve pass rates of 70 percent in the four core academic areas to be fully accredited.</li><li>▪ Allowing elementary schools with third and fifth grades to combine SOL passing rates for the two grades on the English</li></ul>

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
		<p>and mathematics SOL tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing revised benchmarks for school provisional accreditation for third grade mathematics, fifth grade mathematics and history/social studies, middle school history/social studies, and high school history/social studies. The provisionally accredited ratings will cease to exist after the 2002-03 school year.</li> <li>▪ Using alternative assessments such as the Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate as substitutes for the SOL tests in obtaining verified graduation units and in factoring a school's accreditation. The Accountability Advisory Committee will consider substitute tests and make recommendations to the Board.</li> <li>▪ Implementing a process whereby local school boards could review a student's performance on the SOL tests for verified credit when it is inconsistent with other recognized indicators of academic achievement, such as standardized national tests.</li> <li>▪ Providing a daily recess during the regular school year, as determined appropriate by the school.</li> <li>▪ Implementing a remediation recovery process that will allow students who fail the SOL tests in English and/or mathematics to retake the tests the following year and enable schools to include the number of students who subsequently pass these SOL tests in the determination of accreditation ratings.</li> </ul> <p>Other proposed changes include the establishment of a basic diploma and two additional diploma seals, the Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seal and the Board of Education</p>

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
		Career and Technical Education Seal, and the provision of additional information on the School Performance Report Card.
First Review of Teacher Survey Items	Waiver of first review and adoption.	A school profile is to be included on the School Performance Report Card to provide a context for reviewing the information being provided to the community. Components are under development and study but include the results of a survey of teachers in the schools. The teacher survey is intended to provide information concerning teacher perceptions of the level of support provided by the school to implement the Standards of Learning (SOL). The survey is comprised of items developed by the Department of Education staff, reviewed by an ad hoc committee chaired by Board Vice President Ms. Susan Noble, critiqued by the Survey Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University, and field-tested with a pool of teachers. It will be offered to Virginia's 87,000 teachers this spring. The items have been correlated to the research on effective schools.
First Review of Request for Approval of an Experimental or Innovative Program Involving Opening Prior to Labor Day—Martinsville City School Board	Waiver of first review and adoption.	Proposal within Board of Education Guidelines.
Report on the Budget Actions of the 2000 General Assembly	Action deferred until next meeting.	